

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. An image reading apparatus comprising:

a sensor section which includes a color line  
sensor which reads a color image and a monochrome line  
5 sensor which reads a monochrome image provided in  
parallel with and a specific distance away from the  
color line sensor;

an input section which inputs a document image to  
the color line sensor and the monochrome line sensor;

10 and

a control section which, when reading an image  
from a document by use of the input section, starts the  
reading of an image by the color line sensor and the  
reading of an image by the monochrome line sensor with  
15 the same timing.

2. The image reading apparatus according to  
claim 1, further comprising:

an operation section which accepts an image  
reading mode instruction,

20 wherein the control section reads an image with  
the same timing, regardless of the reading mode.

3. The image reading apparatus according to  
claim 2, further comprising:

a storage section which stores, according to the  
25 reading mode, color image data read by the color line  
sensor and monochrome image data read by the monochrome  
line sensor; and

an extraction control section which extracts,  
according to the reading mode, image data in a  
predetermined area from either the color image data or  
the monochrome image data stored in the storage  
5 section.

4. The image reading apparatus according to  
claim 2, further comprising:

a storage section which stores image data; and  
a storage control section which selects, according  
10 to the reading mode, either a color image read by the  
color line sensor or a monochrome image read by the  
monochrome line sensor, extracts an image in a  
predetermined area from either the selected color image  
or monochrome image, and stores the image data in the  
15 extracted area in the storage section.

5. The image reading apparatus according to  
claim 1, further comprising:

a counter which counts a number corresponding to  
the specific distance by which the color line sensor  
20 and the monochrome line sensor are separated;

a first storage section which stores an image read  
by the monochrome line sensor;

a second storage section which stores an image  
read by the color line sensor; and

25 a start control section which starts to store an  
image read by either the color line sensor or the  
monochrome line sensor provided in a position

corresponding to the trailing edge in the image reading direction of the sensor section, after the counter has counted the number corresponding to the specific distance.

5           6. An image reading method comprising:

          accepting an instruction to read an image from a document; and

          starting the reading of an image by a color line sensor and the reading of an image by a monochrome line  
10       sensor provided in parallel with and a specific distance away from the color line sensor with the same timing.

          7. The image reading method according to claim 6, further comprising:

15       accepting an image reading mode instruction, wherein

          the image reading is done with the same timing, regardless of the reading mode.

          8. The image reading method according to claim 7,  
20       further comprising:

          storing, according to the reading mode, either color image data read by the color line sensor or monochrome image data read by the monochrome line sensor; and

25       extracting image data in a predetermined area from the stored image data according to the reading mode.

          9. The image reading method according to claim 7,

further comprising:

selecting, according to the reading mode, either  
color image data read by the color line sensor or  
monochrome image data read by the monochrome line  
5 sensor;

extracting image data in a predetermined area from  
the selected image data; and

storing the image data in the extracted area.

10 10. The image reading method according to claim 6,  
further comprising:

counting a number corresponding to the specific  
distance by which the color line sensor and the  
monochrome line sensor are separated; and

15 storing image data read by either the color line  
sensor or the monochrome line sensor provided on the  
trailing edge side in the image reading direction,  
after the number corresponding to the specific distance  
is counted.

20 11. The image reading method according to  
claim 10, further comprising:

discarding the image data read by either the color  
line sensor or the monochrome line sensor provided on  
the trailing edge side in the image reading direction,  
before the number corresponding to the specific  
25 distance is counted.